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Letter from Anne Whitney, to Sarah Whitney, 1851 January 26

Anne Whitney

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My dear good Sarah

Jan^y 26th Sunday - P.M.

The weather is at last such
appearances are deceitful clearing away - The mist has
rolled off - & probably it will be steaming hot for
variety! I have been sound asleep - either from being
up late the last 2 wks. or from sitting for my picture
to Miss P. I grew very stupid & as soon as I lay
down on the sofa lapsed into oblivion - She is a
very agreeable artist to sit to - I assure you - for
she says a good many funny agreeable & interesting
things to get yr. face in motion - & then falls into
silence & draws & paints very diligently - Don't you
think we shall feel her absence when she
goes to Cuba? I am sure that I shall miss her
a little more than I want to do. Last night after
returning from the opera she sat with me & chatted
for some time - I told her how sorry I was that she
was going to leave so soon - she said she shd. see me
in Boston & Camb. in the summer - or perhaps I shd
come to Sweden to her home - where I shd. have my own
little room - & then she added - "You will have to learn Swedish"
When I told her that I co. not let her go - she said - well
I shall not let you go - you shall always be my sister -
Now don't let this little gossip get about - it is for
yr. eyes wh. I know will find interesting anything
that relates to her - I wish we might have a country

home this summer to
invite her to - all who really
come near - who know her like her very much. Helen
is very much in love with her - Aunt Ann professes
to be disappointed in her - but the old lady ran
on the day she died here as if she was possessed
about this that & the other - I said - had it much
to say then - We finished Prometheus the other
night. she ~~was~~ delighted with it - & took the book
to read over the last few verses - after poring over
one of them for about 3 minutes she broke out
with - "May the devil take me if I can understand
that - I have read it over ten times". I said she
liked it very much - she did on the whole - but was
disappointed in the last two acts. But this Ann -
she told me she had been looking them over & found
them very beautiful - She understands our language
better than most of us who were born & brought up
in it. Tuesday A.M., "To dance on when we've
lost the music - makes me & Doubtless makes
you sick". So I shall not write in the most
lively manner - for my heart feels swampy -
gone - gone - gone - & when I see her again
for I cannot invite her to E.C. I have a lock
of her hair - that is all - - Pray don't promulgate
to the world the details wh. I give you -
Thank Katie & the Karmunters for their very welcome

remembrances - Mary was very kind to write to
me - & Eliza's color I shall have pleasure in
wearing for her sake - Lay to Father with my love
that I am glad he has dipped into Dickens - now
durst he wd. take up Fredrika Bremer - & see
if there are not some great thoughts in her -
O - pity of my life - Dear Sarah what did Mrs.
Silber go to such expenditure for the sake of
the stupid versifying in that book - I have looked
into ^{it} 2 or 3 times & don't want to open it again
& then the mistakes! I ground my teeth - as I
gnashed them over the newspaper - You sent - I am
going to send those editors something to make them
remember me - What right had they to garble
& spoil my piece? - they were at liberty to
throw it aside. We have fine weather at
last - just as the charming little lady has
gone - may it continue! The last two Rings
we have had company - particular acquaintance
of Trudy - & to get thro' the Rings - Comfortably she
asks me to read to them - then she reads Andersen
& I wd. give not a little that all the young
lads & lassies as well as old ones I know wd hear
her read his stories - it is irresistibly comic. She
is very much taken with Browning - it is like contact
with steel she says - then his splendid perception
of character strikes her very much - She took him
one vol. with her saying that she shd. read to me

in letter Yesterday A. M. - I went out with her
^{Mailed about the 30th Jan}
~~at~~ 10½ & from that time till 4 P.M. she
was tripping about - without sitting over ½ hour I
do believe in the whole time - I think she is made
of gutter perches & stult. All the boring! - if you
had heard her relate some of her experience in the
stupid absurdities she has had to endure! She
says that in ~~Stamford~~ & elsewhere she has had
to deny her nature & refrain from little kindnesses
& even the most ordinary civilities to others - because
she soon as she manifested the slightest attention - she
was sure to be assailed by "how do you like America?"
or how do you like us? with other equally sensible
questions - "Nobody in this house" she said - "has asked
me how I liked America!" - Helen says to me afterward
"I am so thankful for that!" as if she had been
on the brink of ruin herself - just escaped propounding
the awful question - Well good by - I must
carry my letter down to Cousin Joe - He is out
of business now - Keep up the writing with
spirit - how is Mother now? beg her to keep
well. Love to all - & to Katie or Thorndike &c.
when - go often - & read for you own & edification.
From yrs - always

Arny